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For Immediate Release

GERALD ARPINO APPOINTED ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE JOFFREY BALLET

The Foundation for The Joffrey Ballet announced today the appointment of Gerald Arpino to succeed the late Robert Joffrey as Artistic Director of the Company. Mr. Arpino was elected unanimously by the Managing Directors of the Foundation at meetings held in New York and Los Angeles. At the same meetings Pennie Curry, Executive Director of the Company, was unanimously reconfirmed as the principal administrative officer.

Mr. Anthony A. Bliss, Co-Chairman of the Foundation, attended both meetings and stated, "The Board of Managing Directors affirmed their determination to carry on the Company and voted unanimously and enthusiastically for the appointment of Gerald Arpino, life-long associate of Robert Joffrey, as the person best qualified to continue Mr. Joffrey's spirit and vision. Robert Joffrey left us a rich heritage upon which to build, and we are determined to make it possible for Gerald Arpino to carry the Company to even greater heights." Before Mr. Joffrey's death, he and Mr. Arpino had planned the repertoire through 1988-89, and prepared a general outline for several seasons beyond.

Co-Founder with Robert Joffrey of The Joffrey Ballet in 1956, Gerald Arpino was also a leading dancer with the company in its first years and was formerly Associate Director and principal choreographer. As Mr. Joffrey's associate for more than 31 years, Gerald Arpino worked closely with Robert Joffrey to develop their original company of six dancers into one of the major international ballet companies.

It was also the expressed wish of Mr. Joffrey to create the position of Chief Ballet Master for Scott Barnard, who has now been promoted to that position by Mr. Arpino. Robert Joffrey saw Mr. Barnard performing with the Alabama State Ballet and invited him to join The Joffrey Ballet in the late sixties. He was made Ballet Master in 1977.

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After the Board meetings, Mr. Arpino stated, "The death of Robert Joffrey is a great misfortune for the world of dance, and for us at The Joffrey Ballet, it is a great personal loss. It was Bob's stated request that we continue and that I become his successor, and I plan to honor him in every way possible. I want to thank the representatives of the government agencies and foundations, our presenters, corporate donors, and audiences for their tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support for us during this sad and difficult time. The Board of Directors and I want to assure everyone that The Joffrey Ballet will not only continue, but will flourish because Robert Joffrey was a master planner, who left us an artistically viable legacy that is unparalleled."